

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/541,443

Examiner

Daniel L. Greene

Applicant(s)

DEDRICK ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/1/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

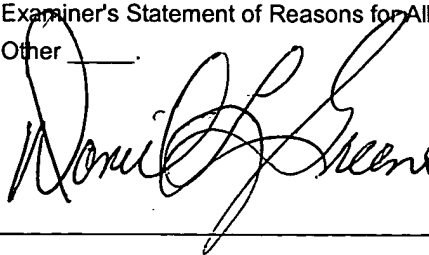
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/13/2004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- 1.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory D. Caldwell on 12/13/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. A lending library apparatus comprising:

an electronic asset lending library database containing a plurality of user accounts and at least one license corresponding to an electronic asset provided to the database;

an account manager to maintain the user accounts;

an asset manager to maintain each license, wherein each license includes one or more license restrictions set by the user that assigned the electronic asset;

a loan manager to control the assignment of each license to another user having another one of the plurality of user accounts according to the license restrictions set by the user that assigned the electronic asset: and

processors ~~a license processor~~ to find user accounts having electronic assets with an expired license, to request a user having an expired license to return or remove any electronic assets corresponding to the expired license, and to maintain a catalog of unassigned licenses for electronic assets.

Page 2 of the Specification. (Elimination of the Hyper-Links.)

electronic assets rather than consumable office products. In an effort to get the most value from their initial investment in electronic assets, corporate managers are placing more emphasis on the need to control electronic assets in much the same way as they control other corporate assets, through reuse and redeployment within the corporation whenever and wherever possible.

The notion of promoting sharing and reuse of software and other electronic products is known in the art. There are a number of widely available shareware libraries that make software and other electronic products freely available over the Internet for downloads and use. For example, the United States Small Business Administration hosts a shareware website that acts as a clearinghouse of freely available software to small business entrepreneurs. ~~located at~~
~~<http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/shareware/sharoots.html>~~ In 1995, the Software Engineering Institute of Electrical Engineers developed a standard for interoperating reuse libraries to help the engineering community share reusable software (IEEE Std 151420.1-1995, IEEE Standard for Information Technology- Software Reuse - Data Model for Reuse Library Interoperability: Basic Interoperability Data Model (BIDM),

Art Unit: 3621

Approved, December 12, 1995). An example of such a software reuse library is Netlib.

The Netlib repository contains freely available software, as well as other electronic documents and databases of interest to the numerical, scientific computing, and other communities. (~~http://www.netlib.org~~).

One of the many limitations of the prior art shareware and software reuse libraries, however, is the lack of controlled sharing and reuse of electronic assets, so as to insure compliance with the electronic product's licensing restrictions, if any.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1, 12, 16, and 22 the closest prior arts of record, Robert- 4,937,863 and Leyba- 5,911,045, taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an electronic asset lending library containing at least one license for an electronic asset assigned by a user having a plurality of user accounts, a license processor to find user accounts having electronic assets with an expired license, removing any electronic assets corresponding to the expired license and to maintain a catalog of unassigned licenses for electronic assets.

The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the prior art is the actions of monitoring and maintaining electronic assets such that only electronic assets that have valid licenses are kept active in the system, electronic assets with expired licenses are returned/removed from the system and maintained in a catalog as unassigned licenses. The prior art does not teach or suggest the reviewing and returning/removing of the electronic asset with expired licenses from the user's

Art Unit: 3621

units throughout the system and maintaining a catalog of unassigned licenses for future use.

Claims 2-11, 13-15, 17-21 and 23-28 are dependent upon Claims 1, 12, 16, and 22 and thus has all the limitations of claims 1, 12, 16, and 22 are allowable for that reason.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Greene whose telephone number is 703-306-5539. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur. 8am-6pm.

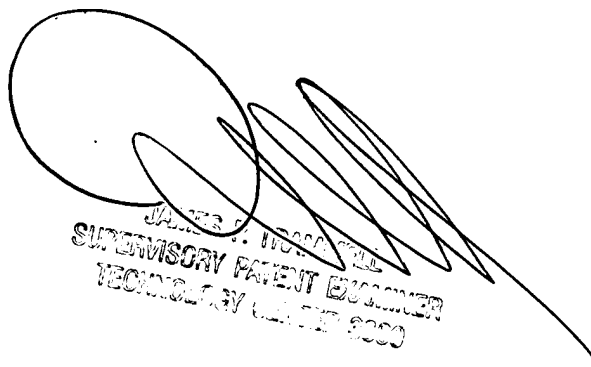
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/14/2004

DLG



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